(a) whether Government propose to shift cinema in the Concurrent list of the Constitution for bringing uniformity in entertainment tax structure;

(b) if so, the views of the State Governments; and

(c) by when the Bill in this regard would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The question of bringing the subject of "cinema" on the Concurrent List has been taken up with the State Governments. However, no consensus has been arrived at in this matter. The 24th Conference of States and Union Territory Ministers of Information and Cinematography held at New Delhi on 21.1.2001 deliberated this matter. In pursuance of their recommendations, a Committee has been set up for development of the Entertainment Sector including films, under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Information and Broadcasting comprising the State Ministers of Information and Public Relations from nine States, where this issue will also be considered.

Foreign capital investment in the print media

†1028. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared the proposal of foreign capital investment in the print media in the country;

(b) if not, whether it is a fact that Government have come across instances of foreign capital investments in print media in the country ignoring the policy in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government continues to be guided by the Cabinet Decision of 1955, which prohibits publication of foreign owned newspapers/periodicals in the country and of Indian editions of foreign newspapers/periodicals dealing mainly with news and current affairs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi